


IN THE SPECIFICATION:


Please amend the specification as follows.

In the beginning of the paragraph on page 20, line 20:



The diffractive lenses 3 and 4 are formed of, for example, concentric-circle gratings and have structures in which the period is shortened gradually toward the outer circumferences of the gratings. In the present embodiment, the collimator lens 3 has a numerical aperture of, for example, 0.15 and the minimum period at the outermost circumference is $13\lambda_1$. Consequently, a diffraction efficiency of at least 80% can be obtained for both the beams with the first and the second wavelengths throughout the whole lens area. However, with respect to the beams with the first and the second wavelengths, the diffractive objective lens has numerical apertures of, for example, 0.6 and 0.45, and the minimum ~~periodes~~ periods at the outermost circumference are $3.3\lambda_1$ and $2.2\lambda_2$, respectively. Therefore, the diffraction efficiency decreases at its circumference.

In the beginning of the paragraph on page 32, line 34:



The off-axis transmission diffraction optical lens used as the transmission objective lens 4b in the present embodiment is formed of a curved grating that has the period shortened gradually in the ~~travelling~~ traveling direction (the y-axis direction) of beams and that is a part of ellipses whose curvatures and center positions are varied gradually.

In the beginning of the paragraph on page 42, line 5:

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In the optical head of the present embodiment, the wavelength of a beam with the first wavelength λ_1 emitted from the light source satisfies substantially a relationship of, for example, $0.35\mu\text{m} \leq \lambda_1 \leq 0.44\mu\text{m}$, and by mounting a light source emitting beams with this first wavelength λ_1 , a small ~~focussing~~ focusing spot can be obtained. As a result, high-density disks with, for example, at least 10GByte capacity can be read. Further, the wavelength of a beam with the second wavelength λ_2 emitted from the light source satisfies substantially a relationship of, for example, $0.57\mu\text{m} \leq \lambda_2 \leq 0.68\mu\text{m}$, and by mounting a light source emitting beams with this second wavelength λ_2 , optical disks such as DVDs or DVD-Rs including a two-layer structure can be read.
